

# The Employment Journey

News You Can Use

On Prince Edward Island



## Much-needed job search & career planning information at your fingertips

[www.employmentjourney.com](http://www.employmentjourney.com)

by Gloria Welton

**T**he **Employment Journey on PEI** is a local newspaper, website, and social media resource which offers direction to help find your fit in the world of work.

Job search is a task that requires support and encouragement, and career planning is a life-altering decision that requires the best possible information.

The staff of The Employment Journey on PEI work hard to offer current, relevant, and timely information that can help answer your job search and career planning questions.

The labour market is changing rapidly as COVID-19 waves continue to have an impact on the economy. But the message continues to be the same - there are many industries on PEI which need to hire today and long into the future.

### The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) surveyed small businesses in November 2021 about their workforce needs. Here are some of the highlights:

- 55% of small businesses in Canada experienced labour shortages – difficulties hiring, retaining, or getting staff to work the hours needed.
- Labour challenges have been on the rise since at least 2017, well before the pandemic.
- 24% of small businesses report that some of their employees switched industries due to the pandemic.
- In the job market, an imbalance between sectors is also notable. For example, the hospitality sector suffers greatly from job vacancies, while the real estate and leasing sector has a lower job vacancy rate.



#### Employment Journey Staff

From left to right: Heidi Riley, *Queens County Reporter/Copy Editor*, Gloria Welton, *Publication Manager/Owner*, Stella Shepard, *Kings County Reporter*, Stacy Dunn, *Reporter/Public Relations*, and Ethan Paquet, *EJ Promoter/Reporter*. Missing from photo is Ruby Arsenault, *West Prince Reporter*.

### In relation to career options on PEI, this is what we are hearing from local industry representatives:

"Nursing is an amazing profession, and I am proud of the career I chose," says **Barbara Brookins**, President of the **PEI Nurses' Union**, which represents Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners on PEI.

**Health PEI** has opportunities across the Island for nurses, physicians, allied health professionals, and other positions. "Health PEI is one of the most inclusive and diverse employers on PEI," says **Janet Horne**, Bilingual Recruitment Coordinator, **PEI Public Service Commission**. "For example, there are opportunities for everything from operations employees including cooks, cleaning and administration in long-term care facilities or hospitals, to nurses and respiratory specialists."

The **City of Charlottetown** employs 600 employees during the summer and 400 during the remainder of the year. Employees can be hired as permanent, seasonal, or contract staff. "The city is a great employer, and we have so many different areas people can work in," says **Emilee MacLeod**, Human Resources Service Officer with the **City of Charlottetown**.

## In relation to career options on PEI, this is what we are hearing from local industry representatives: - continued

"About 4,400 jobs are directly related to agriculture on PEI," says **Laurie Loane**, Executive Director, **PEI Agriculture Sector Council**. "Farmers hire labourers in March and April and throughout the summer, and then we have a huge amount of hiring for four to eight weeks in the fall for harvest. Depending on the commodity, a lot of these jobs are available year-round. There are also jobs in management, science, human resources, mechanics, government, and at agriculture-related companies."

"**Charlottetown Metal Products (CMP)** sees a strong demand for its products and will require more skilled people to successfully manage this growth," says **James Gillelan**, CMP Operations Manager. In November 2021, CMP employed 150 people. James says he has seen the Welder/Fabricator workforce more than double in the four years he has been employed by CMP.

"The construction industry needs about 1,000 more workers in the industry today," says **Sam Sanderson**, General Manager of the **Construction Association of PEI**. "There is no better time to be in construction than right now. The future of this industry is very bright and promising."

"Many construction companies are willing to take on employees who don't have any experience," says **Alicia Packwood**, Executive Officer of **Canadian Home Builders Association-PEI**. "They are willing to train you from the ground up on different aspects of home construction, so that you end up learning a wide range of skills."

**Vivian Beer**, Manager, HR Strategy for the **PEI BioAlliance**, says about 350 jobs are advertised through the BioAlliance each year. "The bioscience sector is growing. We have recently published a strategic plan to grow from about 2,200 staff currently to 3,000 employees by 2025."

"The PEI trucking industry is looking for 500 to 800 new employees," says **Brian Oulton**, Executive Director of the **PEI Trucking Sector Council**. "We have a population of truck drivers who are reaching the age of retirement, and we have companies that want to expand and grow. There is certainly so much opportunity."

"It has been especially challenging to recruit service workers throughout the pandemic, and the need for service workers is at an all-time high," says **Angela Johnston**, Manager of Nutrition Services and Environmental Services for Long Term Care in Queens County, which includes Prince Edward Home and Beach Grove Home.

"Working with adults with a disability is a very rewarding experience and for most people it is a calling rather than just a job," says **Janessa Culleton**, HR/Organizational Support for **Queens County Residential Services**. "We continue to grow and develop to respond to the growing needs of the community. We currently require candidates for a number of positions, and we have many openings for Casual Relief Workers."

The **RCMP** is recruiting people who enjoy collaborating with diverse communities, are physically fit, and have strong leadership abilities. "We have more than 29,000 employees across the country, including various front-line workers and public service staff who support operations," says **Constable Ellen Peters**, the new Recruiter for the RCMP on PEI.

"There's a wide range of job duties within the **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)** which include client relations, communications and marketing, project management, legal services, financial administration, procurement, and contracting," says **Katelyn Smith**, HR Advisor with CRA. "There are positions for post-secondary students and graduates who are in the fields of business, economics, human resources, social sciences, finance, and law. To better represent the public we serve, we are committed to supporting the Government of Canada's initiative to hire 5,000 persons with disabilities by 2025."

**Gaudet's Engine Repair Ltd.** in Tignish is owned and operated by **Rodney** and **Tanya Gaudet**. "We are currently seeking to hire an experienced Mechanic," says Rodney. "This is the one position we struggle to fill. With a growing business, we need someone with experience in the mechanical repair of the equipment we sell."

"IT is not just one job," says **Jeff Van Duinkerken**, Senior Network Administrator of **Combat Computers**. "There are thousands of different jobs in Information Technology. The digital industry is booming because it is part of every industry, including healthcare, aquaculture, agriculture, and more."



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